



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS MCCANDLESS (FFT-1084)
FPO AE 09578-1444

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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From: Commanding Officer, USS MCCANDLESS (FFT-1084)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,
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Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (REPORTS SYMBOL OPNAV 5750-1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Chronology
(2) Command Narrative for the period of 01 January - 31 December 1991
(3) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet
(4) Photograph of USS MCCANDLESS
(5) Photograph of Commanding Officer

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted.

G. R. Chiaverotti
G. R. CHIAVEROTTI

USS MCCANDLESS COMMAND HISTORY 1991
SUMMARY

JAN 01-11	SECOND HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD (CONTINUED)
JAN 09-10	SMI ASSIST VISIT
JAN 14-25	PASSIVE SONAR SUITE REFRESHER TRAINING
JAN 23-25	U/W VCOA COMBAT SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT (CSA) PREPS
JAN 25	U/W VCOA CSA
JAN 29-FEB 08	U/W VCOA TAIL PROFICIENCY TRAINING
FEB 26-MAR 01	U/W VCOA EMAT
MAR 11-15	INSURV
APR 01-02	SMI
APR 07-30	U/W CARIBBEAN/EASTPAC LEO
APR 21	TRANSIT PANAMA CANAL
APR 28	RETURN TRANSIT PANAMA CANAL
MAY 01-05	PORT VISIT ARUBA
MAY 10	ARRIVE NORVA. COMMENCE POM FOR MED 3-91
MAY 15-31	IMAV SIMA NORFOLK
MAY 22-24	BOARDING TEAM TRAINING
MAY 24	ARE
MAY 27-30	SEA TRIALS. GUN AND ASW EX WITH USS CINCINNATI
JUN 10	DEPART NORFOLK ON MED 3-91
JUN 10-21	LANT XSIT
JUN 17	BSF AZORES
JUN 18-26	ASW OPS
JUN 22-JUL 22	MED OPS
JUN 23	CDR LARGENT RELIEVES CDR EGE AS CO OF MCCANDLESS
JUN 28-JUL 01	PORT VISIT ALICANTE, SPAIN
JUL 03-08	PORT VISIT MARSEILLES, FRANCE
JUL 11-15	PORT VISIT MENTON, FRANCE
JUL 15-17	SAG OPS
JUL 18-21	PORT VISIT CORFU, GREECE
JUL 22	SUEZ CANAL XSIT
JUL 23-OCT 15	MIF OPS
AUG 06	COLLISION WITH YUGOSLAVIAN VESSEL
AUG 11-15	PORT VISIT HURGHADA, EGYPT
AUG 15	CDR CHIAVEROTTI RELIEVES CDR LARGENT AS CO OF MCCANDLESS
AUG 28-SEP 01	PORT VISIT HURGHADA, EGYPT
SEP 18-23	PORT VISIT HURGHADA, EGYPT
OCT 09-14	POST VISIT HURGHADA, EGYPT
OCT 16	SUEZ CANAL XSIT
OCT 17-NOV 01	RAV HAIFA, ISRAEL
NOV 02-07	ASW OPS
NOV 08-14	PORT VISIT ATHENS, GREECE
NOV 14-20	EXERCISE NIRIIIS
NOV 16	ANCHORED SITIA BAY, GREECE
NOV 20-23	PORT VISIT SOUDA BAY, GREECE
NOV 25-28	PORT VISIT AKSAZ-KARAAGAC, TURKEY
NOV 28-DEC 06	EXERCISE DOGU AKDENIZ
DEC 02-04	PORT VISIT IZMIR, TURKEY
DEC 06-10	MED XSIT
DEC 07-12	MAG OPS
DEC 11-12	OUTCHOP MED/TURNOVER

DEC 12-21

DEC 21

DEC 22-31

DEC 31

LANT XSIT

RETURN TO HOMEPORT

FIRST HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD

USS MCCANDLESS TRANSFERRED TO THE RESERVE FORCE AS PART OF THE
FFT PROGRAM

USS MCCANDLESS COMMAND HISTORY
NARRATIVE

1. THE NEW YEAR BEGAN WITH THE MCCANDLESS IN THE MIDST OF THE SECOND LEAVE PERIOD. THE CREW RELAXED AND ENJOYED THE HOLIDAYS, YET CONTINUED PREPARATIONS FOR THE MULTITUDE OF INSPECTIONS THAT WERE QUICKLY APPROACHING.
2. THE MCCANDLESS WAS UNDERWAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE NEW YEAR ON 23 JANUARY. SHE HEADED FOR THE OPAREAS OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH CAROLINA WHILE CONTINUING TRAINING FOR THE COMBAT SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT (CSA) WHICH STARTED ON 25 JANUARY. A SATISFACTORY GRADE ON THE CSA PROVED MCCANDLESS WAS READY TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF COMBAT ANYWHERE, ANYTIME. THE NEXT WEEK SAW MCCANDLESS CONDUCT TAIL PROFICIENCY TRAINING IN THE COMPANY OF USS TRUETT (FF-1095) AND USS GREENLING (SSN-614). DESPITE MECHANICAL PROBLEMS, MCCANDLESS PERFORMED ADMIRABLY AND MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH THE FAST ATTACK SUBMARINE FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF THE EXERCISE. ADDITIONALLY, MCCANDLESS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PERFORM HER FIRST NIGHT, UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT IN RECENT MEMORY. WITH CALM SEAS AND A BRIGHT MOON, MCCANDLESS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THESE IDEAL CONDITIONS AND SMOOTHLY PULLED ALONGSIDE THE USNS NEOSHO (T-AO-143). THE UNREP WAS EXECUTED FLAWLESSLY AS MCCANDLESS TOOK ON THE FUEL NECESSARY TO RETURN TO NORFOLK, WHICH SHE DID ON THE EVENING OF 08 FEBRUARY.
3. MCCANDLESS CONTINUED HER HECTIC INSPECTION CYCLE AS SHE ENDURED EMAT, INSURV, AND SMI ALL WITHIN A FIVE WEEK PERIOD. WITH HARD WORK AND METICULOUS PREPARATION, NOT ONLY DID SHE SURVIVE THIS PERIOD, BUT EXCELLED DURING IT. MCCANDLESS WAS IMPRESSIVE IN EACH INSPECTION, HELPING HER TO EARN THE RED "E" AND BLUE "E".
4. ON 07 APRIL, MCCANDLESS SET OUT ON A FIVE WEEK LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS ASSIGNMENT. THE FIRST COUPLE WEEKS WERE SPENT IN THE CARIBBEAN UNTIL, ON 21 APRIL, THE MCCANDLESS TRANSITTED THE PANAMA CANAL. THIS PASSAGE WAS EXCITING AND EDUCATIONAL AS MOST CREW MEMBERS HAD NEVER BEEN THROUGH THE CANAL OR IN THE PACIFIC. AFTER A WEEK "ON THE OTHER SIDE" THE MCCANDLESS MADE ITS RETURN TRIP THROUGH THE CANAL AND HEADED FOR ARUBA. ARUBA WAS A THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE VISIT AFTER A MONTH AT SEA.
5. THE CREW WAS HAPPY TO RETURN TO NORFOLK ON 10 MAY, BUT WAS QUICKLY INFORMED THE SHIP WOULD NOT REMAIN THERE LONG. AFTER BEING TOLD SHE WOULD NEVER MAKE ANOTHER LONG CRUISE, THE MCCANDLESS WAS CHOSEN TO MAKE A SHORT NOTICE DEPLOYMENT IN SUPPORT OF DESERT SHIELD. THE POM PERIOD BEGAN IMMEDIATELY. THE NEXT 30 DAYS WERE CRAMMED WITH AN IMAV, AN ARE, BOARDING TEAM TRAINING, AND SEA TRIALS. THROUGH SUPERIOR CREW EFFORT, MCCANDLESS MET HER TARGET DATE AND DEPLOYED ON 10 JUNE FOR MED 3-91.
6. MCCANDLESS COMPLETED HER 12 DAY ATLANTIC TRANSIT ON 21 JUNE AFTER A BSF IN THE AZORES ON THE 17TH. ON 23 JUNE, AN AT-SEA CHANGE OF COMMAND WAS HELD AS CDR LARGENT RELIEVED CDR EGE AS COMMANDING OFFICER. MEANWHILE, THE MCCANDLESS INCHOPPED INTO THE MED AND BEGAN CONDUCTING ASW OPERATIONS UNTIL THE FIRST PORT VISIT IN WONDERFUL ALICANTE, SPAIN. THIS PORT VISIT WAS QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY STOPS IN MARSEILLE, FRANCE; MENTON, FRANCE; AND CORFU, GREECE. THESE FREQUENT PORT VISITS MADE THE MONTH A VERY ENJOYABLE ONE FOR THE CREW OF THE MCCANDLESS.
7. ON 22 JULY, THE MCCANDLESS TRANSITTED THE SUEZ CANAL, ONLY THREE MONTHS AFTER

ITS INITIAL TRANSIT THROUGH THE PANAMA CANAL. THIS MARKED THE BEGINNING OF OUR INTENDED DUTY DURING DESERT SHIELD. THE SHIP WAS TASKED WITH BOARDING VESSELS INBOUND TO OR OUTBOUND OF THE GULF OF AQABA. THESE MARITIME INTERCEPTION FORCE OPERATIONS LASTED FROM 23 JULY TO 15 OCTOBER DURING WHICH TIME MCCANDLESS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED 134 BOARDINGS. ONE BOARDING, HOWEVER, DID NOT GO SO SMOOTHLY. ON 6 AUGUST, MCCANDLESS HAD A MINOR COLLISION WITH A YUGOSLOVIAN MERCHANT VESSEL. THE INCIDENT LEFT A SIX FOOT BY THREE FOOT HOLE IN THE PORT SIDE OF THE MCCANDLESS' FORECASTLE AND A SMALL ONE FOOT DIAMETER HOLE IN THE BOW OF THE MERCHANT. FORTUNATELY, THERE WERE NO INJURIES. THE SHIP'S HULL WAS QUICKLY AND EXPERTLY REPAIRED BY SHIP'S FORCE ENABLING THE MCCANDLESS TO REMAIN ON STATION AND CONTINUE HER OPERATIONS. THE ONLY BREAKS FROM THE BOARDINGS WERE PORT VISITS TO HURGHADA, EGYPT WHERE WE PULLED IN ON FOUR SEPARATE OCCASIONS FOR STAYS OF THREE TO FIVE DAYS. THOUGH HURGHADA DID NOT OFFER MUCH ENTERTAINMENT, IT WAS A CHANCE TO WALK ON SOLID GROUND AND MAKE A PHONE CALL. AFTER OUR FIRST STOP IN HURGHADA, CDR CHIAVEROTTI RELIEVED CDR LARGENT AND ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE USS MCCANDLESS ON 15 AUGUST.

8. LEAVING HURGHADA FOR THE FINAL TIME ON 14 OCT, MCCANDLESS HEADED FOR THE SUEZ CANAL. AFTER THE RETURN TRANSIT, THE SHIP MOORED IN HAIFA, ISRAEL FOR A TWO WEEK AVAILABILITY. HAIFA PROVIDED AN ENTERTAINING AND LENGTHY BREAK FOR THE CREW AFTER THREE MONTHS OF MIF OPERATIONS WITH ONLY THE MUNDANE PORT OF HURGHADA AS A RESPITE.

9. HAIFA WAS FOLLOWED BY A WEEK OF ASW OPERATIONS BEFORE PULLING INTO ATHENS, GREECE. THIS PORT VISIT WAS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY THE EXERCISE NIRIIS, WHICH WAS CONDUCTED WITH THE BRITISH, FRENCH, SPANISH, AND GREEKS. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE EXERCISE, MCCANDLESS HAD A PORT VISIT TO SOUDA BAY, GREECE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY A STOP IN AKSAZ-KARAAGAC, TURKEY. AFTER BACK TO BACK PORT VISITS, MCCANDLESS WAS READY FOR DOGU AKDENIZ, A MULTINATIONAL EXERCISE INVOLVING SURFACE AND SUB-SURFACE UNITS FROM THE U.S., FRANCE, SPAIN, AND TURKEY. DOGU AKDENIZ AND NIRIIS WERE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MCCANDLESS TO DISPLAY HER BATTLE SKILLS. THE EXERCISES INCLUDED ASW, ASUW, FORMATION STEAMING, ESCORT OPERATIONS, SORTIES, AND SIMULATED WAR AT SEA SCENARIOS.

10. AFTER LEAVING TURKEY, MCCANDLESS CONDUCTED MAG OPERATIONS WHILE TRANSITTING THE MEDITERRANEAN. ON 12 DECEMBER, MCCANDLESS COMPLETED HER TURNOVER AND OUTCHOPPED THE MED. THIS MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE ATLANTIC TRANSIT AND THE SPOTTING OF THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL. ROUGH SEAS AND HIGH WINDS DID NOT LESSEN THE ANTICIPATION OR EXCITEMENT ON THE RETURN TRANSIT. ON 21 DECEMBER, A COLD AND RAINY DAY, MCCANDLESS PULLED INTO NORFOLK FOR ITS LONG AWAITED HOMECOMING. AN EXCITED AND ANXIOUS CREW WAS WELCOMED BY BANNERS, A BAND, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY. THE HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD BEGAN THE NEXT DAY AND THE MCCANDLESS GOT A WELL DESERVED REST AFTER NEARLY NINE MONTHS AWAY FROM HOMEPORT IN 1991.

11. ON 31 DECEMBER, MCCANDLESS TOOK ON A NEW MISSION. SHE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE RESERVE FORCE AS PART OF THE FFT PROGRAM. THE NEWLY DESIGNATED FFT-1084 TURNED HER FOCUS TOWARD TRAINING RESERVE UNITS.

COMMANDER GARY R. CHIAVEROTTI
UNITED STATES NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS MCCANDLESS (FF-1084)

Commander Gary Robert Chiaverotti was born in (b) (6) on (b) (6). He graduated from Carroll College, Waukesha, Wisconsin in 1972, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. He subsequently received his Masters of Public Administration Degree from PENN STATE. Commander Chiaverotti has attended the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Commissioned an Ensign in 1973 after graduating from Officer Candidate School, Commander Chiaverotti's first assignment was as a Naval Gunfire Liaison Officer with the 1st Battalion, 10th Marines, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Following completion of the Surface Warfare Officer Basic Course, he was assigned in USS COONTZ (DDG-40) as 1st Lieutenant and ASW Officer from 1975-1977. After serving two years as an NROTC instructor at the University of Texas at Austin, and a brief tour as Communications Officer in USS VOGELGESANG (DD 862), he attended Department Head school. Commander Chiaverotti's focus shifted from top-side to the main spaces, serving as Engineer Officer in USS SAMPSON (DDG-5) from 1981-1983, followed by a tour as the Material Officer on the staff of Commander, Destroyer Squadron Two. Returning to sea, Commander Chiaverotti served as Executive Officer in USS CLAUDE V. RICKETTS (DDG-5) from 1985-1987. After both completing the U.S. Army War College and receiving a Masters of Public Administration degree, he was assigned to the Policy and Strategy Directorate, Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command staff, Norfolk, VA.

Commander Chiaverotti has been decorated with the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, and has received the following campaign and service awards: the Battle "E", the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Sea Service Ribbon.

Commander Chiaverotti is married to (b) (6). They have two children, (b) (6) and (b) (6) and reside in (b) (6) Virginia.